

Engineering Tips for Ceiling Lift Installation & Maintenance

**Steven Elliot, Chief, Engineering Services
Palo Alto, VAH**

*Oakland, California
January 24, 2012*

VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

1

Engineering Considerations

- **Items to include in the procurement request and/or process.**
 - **Structural review of the facility rooms for attachment of ceiling lift.**
 - **Fire Safety review of the facility rooms for clearances and sprinkler concerns.**
 - **Electrical review of the facility rooms for cables and their routing.**

VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

2

Structures

- **Plan for a Structural Engineer to review the existing ceiling/roof structure to determine if it can support the additional load for the lift.**
- **If okay for ceiling attachment, have estimate performed for any non-lift work which must be performed. Include mechanical and electrical.**
- **Have independent Structural Engineer review submissions from lift vendor as part of submittal process. Don't forget seismic considerations.**
- **Remember, structural is only part of the full installation package.**

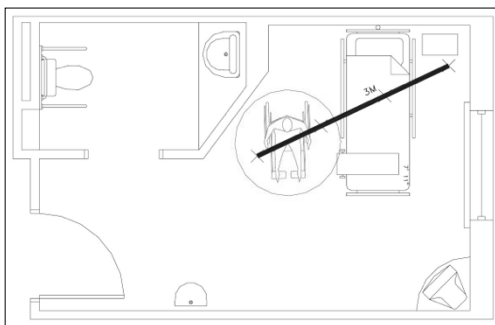
VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

3



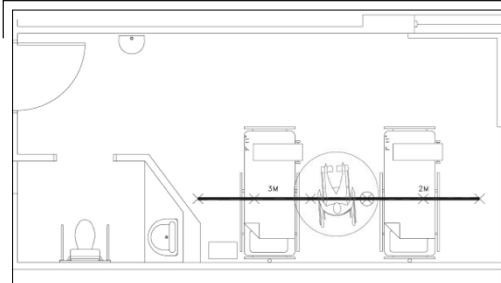
VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

4



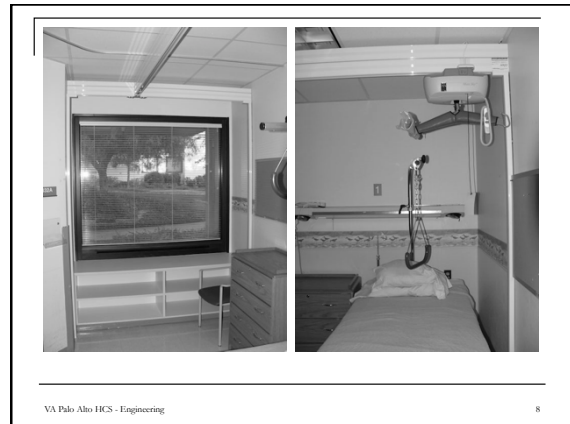
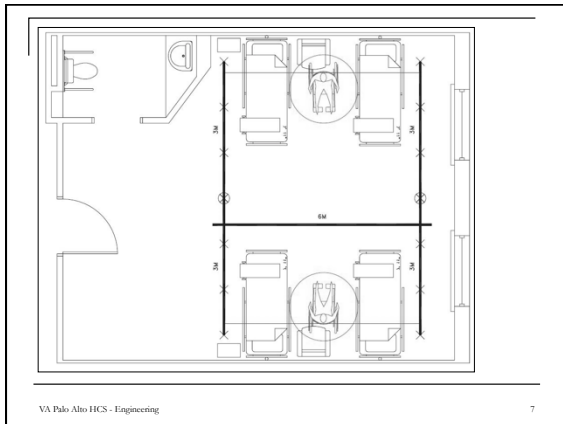
VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

5



VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

6

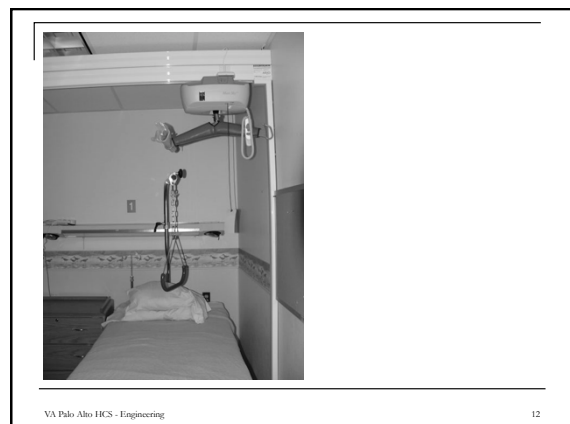


Fire and Life Safety

- Vendor should provide a summary of fire sprinkler head issues, including blockage and clearance issues. Recommend PE certification.
- Vendor should address the parking location for lift drive unit and clearances required around the patient bed(s).
- Recommend lift rail systems not extend beyond the patient room due to interface at doorways.
- Remember bed curtains, IV poles, TVs, and how they will need to be relocated after installation.

VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

9





VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

13



VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

14



VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

15

Electrical

- Have an electrical engineer review submittals for compliance with NEC and NFPA 99.
- Have all power provided by a service receptacle which is part of the patient bedside circuit (either normal or emergency circuit).
- Have all metal parts located within the patient vicinity bonded and ground to the patient area ground point.
- Make sure the installation does not interfere with maintenance of lighting and HVAC systems.

VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

16



VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

17



VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

18



VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

19

Maintenance Items

- **ALWAYS** follow manufacturers inspection requirements **AS A MINIMUM**.
- **Inspect structural above ceiling annually.**
- **Inspect structural below ceiling annually.**
- **Inspect motor and trolley components annually.**
- **Inspect electrical cords and connections annually.**
- **HAVE NURSING** inspect the electrical cords, lift web belting, and safety cord **BEFORE** each use.

VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

20



VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

21



VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

22



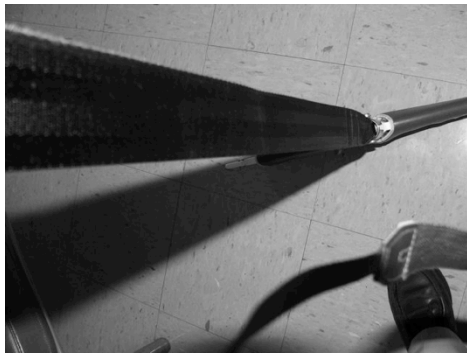
VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

23



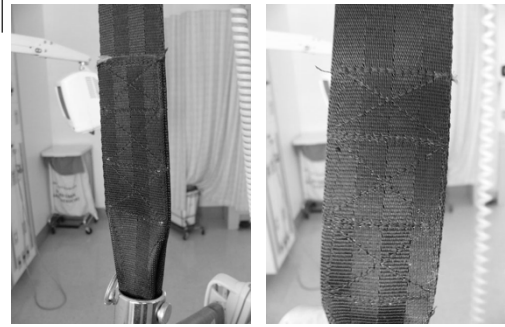
VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

24



VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

25



VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

26

For Questions

Steven A. Elliott, PE, CHFM

Chief, Engineering Service

VA Palo Alto Health Care System

3801 Miranda Ave; Palo Alto, CA 94304

Phone: (650) 493-5000 x65006

E-mail: steven.elliott3@va.gov

Cell: (650) 444-5964

VA Palo Alto HCS - Engineering

27